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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/495,710	02/01/2000	Andress Sommer	P66.2717	5203
7590	08/24/2004		EXAMINER	
SCHIFF HARDIN & WAITE PATENT DEPARTMENT 7100 SEARS TOWER CHICAGO, IL 60606-6473			SONG, HOON K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2882	

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/495,710	SOMMER, ANDRESS
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Hoon Song	2882

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 April 2004.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-7 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 01 February 2000 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

In view of the appeal brief filed on April 22, 2004, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. A new ground of rejection is set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

- (1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,
- (2) request reinstatement of the appeal.

If reinstatement of the appeal is requested, such request must be accompanied by a supplemental appeal brief, but no new amendments, affidavits (37 CFR 1.130, 1.131 or 1.132) or other evidence are permitted. See 37 CFR 1.193(b)(2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-2 and 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kantrowitz et al. (US 6003174).

Regarding claims 1-2 and 4, Kantrowitz teaches a computed tomography apparatus (figure 1) comprising:

a gantry (20) having a measuring opening (112);

an x-ray source mounted in said gantry having a focus from which radiation is emitted, at least said focus rotating around said measuring opening for irradiating an examination subject (27) from different directions (column 3 line 35);

a detector disposed in said opening for obtaining projection datasets corresponding to radiation incident on said detector as said focus rotates around said measuring opening (column 3 line 35);

a support table having a support plate (26), adapted to receive an examination subject thereon, and a carrier, said support plate (26) being non-displaceably mounted cantilevered to said carrier (although the attachment is rotatably mounted to the operating table, it is set in one position prior to starting a procedure so that the patient is not moved both the scanning and surgical procedures (column 2 line 56-60). Once the position of the extension is set, it would be considered to be "non-displaceably mounted cantilevered to said carrier" as claimed); and

a mechanism (wheels) for moving said gantry independently of said support table, including movement of said gantry into a use position wherein said support plate extends through said measuring opening (figures 1).

Regarding claim 2, Kantrowitz teaches said carrier comprises a floor stand (figure 1).

Regarding claim 4, Kantrowitz teaches said support table is movable (figure 1).

Regarding claim 5, Kantrowitz teaches that said support table has a longitudinal axis and wherein said gantry has a system axis, and wherein said support table is positionable relative to said gantry so that said longitudinal axis and said system axis, when projected into a horizontal plane, intersect when said gantry is in said use position (figure 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kantrowitz in view of Fujita et al. (US 5848126).

Regarding claims 6-7, Kantrowitz fails to teach a motor drive for moving said gantry along said system axis to allow scanning of a volume of an examination subject adapted to be received on said support plate in said measuring opening nor rails along which said gantry is movable.

Fujita teaches a CT gantry having a motor drive (85) for moving said gantry along said system axis to allow scanning of a volume of an examination subject adapted to be received on said support plate in said measuring opening (figure 25) nor rails (17) along which said gantry is movable (figure 23a).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the gantry of Kantrowitz with the motorized gantry as taught by Fujita, since the motorized gantry of Fujita would provide quick and precise control of gantry positioning than a person due to its heavy construction.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art fails to teach that the carrier comprises a ceiling stand as claimed in dependent claim 3.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoon Song whose telephone number is (571) 272-2494. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5 PM, Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Glick can be reached on (571) 272 - 2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2882

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HKS

8/17/04
HKS



DAVID V. BRUCE
PRIMARY EXAMINER